

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1922

To amend chapter 61 of title 5, United States Code, to make election day a legal public holiday, with such holiday to be known as “Freedom and Democracy Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 2, 1998

Mr. CAMPBELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend chapter 61 of title 5, United States Code, to make election day a legal public holiday, with such holiday to be known as “Freedom and Democracy Day”.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds that—

5 (1) democratic government derives its legit-
6 imacy from the consent of the governed, as mani-
7 fested in the full participation of an informed and
8 aware electorate;

1 (2) since 1960 the rate of voter participation in
2 the United States has declined and is now among
3 the lowest of any nation with a democratic form of
4 government;

5 (3) since 1972 the rate of voter participation
6 among young people in the United States has de-
7 clined significantly;

8 (4) the Federal Government should encourage
9 personal responsibility and the broader understand-
10 ing of the value and importance of the right to vote;
11 and

12 (5) the establishment of a legal public holiday
13 on election day, the first Tuesday after the first
14 Monday in November of each even numbered year,
15 could provide a substantial incentive to increase
16 voter participation by the American public.

17 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

18 It is the sense of the Congress that educators, civic
19 and charitable organizations, radio and television broad-
20 casters, and public officials at all levels of government
21 should help the people of the United States celebrate Free-
22 dom and Democracy Day through appropriate celebrations
23 and events which stress the importance of self-govern-
24 ment.

1 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF ELECTION DAY AS LEGAL PUBLIC**
 2 **HOLIDAY.**

3 Section 6103 of title 5, United States Code, is
 4 amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
 6 section (e); and

7 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the follow-
 8 ing:

9 “(d)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the first Tuesday
 10 after the first Monday in November in each even num-
 11 bered year, Election Day, shall be a legal public holiday,
 12 with such holiday to be known as Freedom and Democracy
 13 Day.

14 “(2) Freedom and Democracy Day—

15 “(A) shall be a regular workday;

16 “(B) shall not be treated as a legal public holi-
 17 day for purposes of statutes relating to pay and
 18 leave of employees as defined by section 2105 of this
 19 title; and

20 “(C) shall not affect the regular operations of
 21 the Federal Government.”.

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